



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE DETAILED PLANS FOR MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS AT JUVENILE CAMPS**

**Los Angeles**—Today Supervisor Ridley-Thomas criticized a report submitted to the Board by the County Probation Department for failing to provide previously requested details regarding hiring, monitoring, budgeting and operational plans to address deficiencies at Juvenile Probation Camps as required by an agreement with the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ).

On August 17, 2010, the Board approved an allocation of \$7.9 million to implement a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the USDOJ that was finalized on November 23, 2009, which identified 38 operational and three administrative areas requiring remedial attention at the County's Juvenile Probation Camps. A progress report submitted to the Board today on the status of the Departments corrective plans failed to provide anticipated details.

"The Board of Supervisors cannot allow the Department of Probation to repeat the failures of the past with regard to budgeting, personnel, operations and other areas that have resulted in unacceptable services to our youth," said Ridley-Thomas.

In criticizing today's report, the Supervisor said, "there does not appear to be a plan for measuring the quality of the services provided, or even how the level of service will change as new personnel are hired and employed at the camps."

“Our youth deserve to be adequately cared for during every day that they are in our custody and supervision and I expect to see plans that indicate that this will be done.”

The previously approved funds will finance 94 positions, including five positions for the Auditor Controller, 23 positions for health workers, and 66 positions for mental health workers. Funds were also provided to cover pharmaceutical costs. These funding allocations are expected to bring the County camp’s health and mental health operations into compliance with the USDOJ MOA.

The Probation Department and the County CEO agreed to submit the requested detailed plans to the Board in thirty days.

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